Shpiganovsky worked patiently to weave his web. The charges, however, did not hold together—the sixty odd crimes for which there were "witnesses" had no relation to one another, and there was no evidence of conspiracy among the defendants. The arrest of Chardash gave Shpiganovsky the idea of "organizing" a conference of Anarchists. Chardash would incite the others to crimes, while the rank-and-file members of the convention would report their plans and misdeeds and intentions to Chardash.

Among the suspects held in our tower for two or three months was a fugitive sailor, Galkovsky, an epileptic but a quiet and humble man in the intervals between his attacks. Because of his frequent fits, he only vaguely remembered what had happened a few days earlier. One could persuade him, for instance, that the ward had received loaves of white bread the preceding week, instead of the usual black bread. At first he would say, "I do not know." After some persuasion he would agree that he had seen and eaten the white bread.

Shpiganovsky began to work on him and made him sign a statement describing a convention of Anarchists in his home. It alleged that some sixty persons had been present at the opening of the meeting and fifteen more had arrived before its end. Chardash presided. His keynote speech took four pages—Shpiganovsky concocted it by piecing together excerpts from Anarchist leaflets and pamphlets. Among those present were . . . here followed a long list, each with particulars, like this: Pavlov, Ivan, son of Simon, twenty-six years old, born in Volkovo of Kalish precinct, Kuznetsk county, Novorossiisk department, welder in the repair shop of Ekaterinoslav railroad, wanted by police for harboring an unknown suspect of a holdup in Briansk in 1906. His aliases are Long Brother and Lightning. . . .

Galkovsky seemed to have known everything about each of his guests, and his information agreed with the police files in every detail. On the basis of this testimony, Galkovsky and 102 other prisoners were charged collectively with conspiracy and numerous other crimes. The prosecutor demanded the death penalty for all of them. When Galkovsky showed me the list of charges and asked my advice, I said, "You are a damned liar and a double-damned fool! How could you sign this nonsense?"

"I do not know," he replied. "I thought I was signing a deposition that I knew nothing."

"But how could you know the name, age, and place of birth of all these men?"

"I could not. The judge ordered me to sign that I knew nothing."

Then I said to Galkovsky, "If you want me to help you, tell me